



PATENT APPLICATION *ST*
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6-12-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hideki URAMICHI

Group Art Unit: 3636

Application No.: 10/050,943

Filed: January 22, 2002

Docket No.: 110951

For: RECLINING DEVICE FOR A SEAT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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GROUP 3600

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. The reference was cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the summary of the Office Action is attached for the Examiner's information.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

The present application entitled "Reclining Device for a Seat" is composed of a plurality of pawls, ratchet, holder, and cam body, wherein each of the pawls has first teeth formed in a first end thereof, first and second leg portions extending in a direction opposite to the first teeth and formed in a second end portion on the other side of the first end portion. The ratchet has second teeth that mesh with the first teeth and can turn within a range; and the holder has a guide groove that abuts on and holds a lateral face of each of the pawls so that pawls slidably moves toward or away from the second teeth of the ratchet.

The Taiwan patent publication No. 3040806 which was published on May 1, 1997 (see the attachment) has disclosed the technical feature of utilizing teeth-shaped components to adjust relative positions among components so as to achieved the function of adjusting tilting angle of the backrest of a chair. Therefore, the present application is a partial structural modification of existing devices and is not a highly advanced technical creation by which natural laws are utilized. In addition, although the shapes of the components of the present application are somewhat different from those of the cited patent still they are obvious design choices and can be easily thought of by people skilled in this art and thus does not possess inventive step.

Additionally, the subject matter of the claims is different from the title and thus an amendment either to the claims or to the title is required.

As a conclusion, the present application fails to meet the statutory requirements of an invention patent and thus is rejected under Article 19 and the second paragraph of Article 20 of Taiwan Patent Law.